

PARISIENNES WEAR COATEES AT RED CROSS TEAS

MADE OF PRINTED TAFFETA, THESE JACKETS PROVE SO BECOMING THAT THEY ENCROACH UPON THE DINNER GOWN'S PRESERVE.

By BESSIE ASCOUGH.

NOW that every one is engaged on war work of one kind or another, indoor gowns and blouses are of paramount importance. I have not been in England lately, but I know that over here, in France, indoor gowns are at the moment of much greater importance than those intended for outdoor wear.

Frenchwomen, especially our fastidious Parisiennes, like to look fresh and dainty while presiding over sewing parties and Red Cross teas. The rest-coatees and tea-jackets of the present season are quite lovely from every point of view, and the same may be said of the new blouse models.

Printed taffeta is a favorite material for tea-jackets, and some of the designs and color schemes are as poetic as they are effective. For example, I recall a quaint little coatee expressed in zinc white taffeta printed with delicate wreaths of flowers in a clear Wedgwood blue.

The little garment had an 1880 air. It moulded the figure and was fastened down the front with blue ball buttons. The coatee was sleeveless, and underneath there was a blouse, finished with bishop sleeves, in the new material called crêpe Français. This is a very supple stuff, and particularly suitable for the collars and cuffs of silk or satin blouses.

The model I have just mentioned had a very large sailor collar which fell over the taffeta coatee, and there was a loose sash in Wedgwood blue silk which had rounded ends richly embroidered with tiny blue and white



SOFT and of exquisite beauty is this Moyen Age tea gown, which gives more than a hint of Greece in the artistry of the draping and in the brooch-like shoulder knots of brick red roses. It is of heavy white chiffon cloth over ochre colored satin.

Blouses Russian in Outline, Indeed, Faithfully Following the Contour of the Moujik's Jacket, Are Beloved Now by French Designers.

terial and generous in outline. The folds must be full enough to give a thoroughly careless effect. And such a blouse-coat—whether for indoor or outdoor wear—should be worn over a rather short and skimpy skirt. The outline thus produced is peculiar, but it is eminently chic.

A rarely lovely blouse, recently created by a Paris dressmaker of

ment in the color of the skirt, be it made of tweed, serge or frieze.

More fragile and very charming are those blouses that are composed of ivory pin-spot net with a very deep sailor collar at the back made of black satin lightly pleated and weighted at the corners by tassels. Collars of this kind are quite a feature of the new ninon and crêpe de Chine blouses, and one advantage of them is that they can be made detachable with a view to cleaning purposes or for diversity's sake.

I must not forget to mention the pointed lace collar, which falls almost as far as the waist at the back, and in some cases below it. It brightens the effect of a dark crêpe or silk blouse exceedingly well when made of fine cream or ivory lace, and looks very pretty in delicate black lace when white is chosen for the blouse. Pretty little crystal tassels and milk-white bead ones, jetted ornaments and pearls are used as weights, and when the pointed collar falls below the waist it may be belted, and thus forms a dainty pelerine.

New Motoring Veils.

Among other charming items that the changing season demands for motoring is a veil with a thick white lace face covering and a cap and scarf drapery of crêpe de Chine. Bag gloves there are, too, with thumbs, composed of thick white kid as regards the palms and squirrel or some other fur for the backs of the hands. For children there are lamb's fur and sheepskin gloves which are very warm and comfortable, with thick white kid palms.

We wore simple trimmings on our hats throughout the summer, and it is not likely, in these days of stress and much occupation with good work for our sailors and soldiers and for the homeless, that greater elaboration would be allowed to advance. As a matter of fact, the new hats are



THE decolletage, which is high in back and low at front, is characteristic of semi-formal gowns. The gown, although seemingly elaborately trimmed, is simple in effect, for it is entirely in white, excepting the black roses that fasten the parted sleeves and the two bands of monkey fringe.

world-wide fame, was composed of wistaria-mauve bloom silk, with a large collar and curved cuffs in black charmeuse. This was an original and thoroughly satisfactory garment. The soft silk fronts were arranged in a modified cross-over style, though the blouse pouched at the sides, and there were long ends which formed a sash and which were tied at the back.

There was a very long shoulder seam, and the full sleeves were set in rather far down on the upper arm. Then there was the effective collar, slightly stiffened, in black charmeuse, and large curved cuffs in the same material, the latter being attached to the blouse sleeve by lengths of black satin ribbon which were tied in loose bows. This blouse could make an ideal dress bodice if worn with a pleated skirt of wistaria-mauve cashmere.

I must not neglect to mention that many of the newest blouses have high necks. That is to say, they are buttoned right up to the throat in the old-fashioned manner. The decolleté blouse is certainly going out of fashion. At the present moment the most popular models are those which open in a modest V, but it seems likely that in the near future we shall have returned to the high-necked blouse which was popular about twenty years ago.

In many of the fur designs offered for this winter's wear those of last season remain unaltered, showing that we are electing to remain faithful to old and tried favorites. But there are some fresh patterns for those who desire novelty, especially in muffs.

The muff with the broad-belt centre is a picturesque-looking one, and the belt that separates the wide and pleated "mouths" of the muff is so arranged that a contrast in color and peltry is contrived.

Very beautiful is a flap muff of this kind made of tailless ermine, with a band of civet cat in the centre. The tie that matches the muff is quite small and has rounded ends passed through a loop of the dark and curiously marked fur. In another form of muff, in this case a black one, we see two envelope flaps hemmed with striped black and white fur and note that the lining of the muff is black, a utilitarian idea in keeping with the new fashion for colored coat linings, instead of the hitherto regulation white ones.

Fawn and straw-brown silk linings are used for the immensely popular covert coating suits, and for the equally well liked marine-blue ones there are linings to match. Shot silk is much used again for the purpose, and our purveyors are making a very special point in their all-British productions of home-made silk as well as serge, covert coating, frieze or tweed.

In our search for the practical in matters of dress we have placed the blouse in an exceedingly prominent position. The old plan of changing the toilette several times a day for each occasion cannot be followed now, for our whole time is bounded by one pursuit, namely, close attention to the particular scheme for helping others which we represent individually.

Blouses Assume Greater Importance.

What could be more useful under these circumstances than the blouse? The broad-stripe design seen in various fabrics, from cosy wool to delicate ninon, is distinctive and can always be chosen to match some ele-



DEEP turquoise blue suede cloth makes up this black buttoned frock, whose coat, even for this season of long coats, is of decidedly unusual length. Unconventional is the sleeve which widens out into a pointed flare at the bottom. The short collar is of skunk.

studiously and obviously examples of beautiful line and most sparse decoration. Rosettes of autumn flowers or a single specimen of a blossom and fantasies of various kinds, used simply in many cases, are employed.

To take the place of the black suede shoes of the autumn there are high-buttoned boots of that comfortable leather, with round toes. They are densely black, and the buttons are dull ones to match the suede. Brown suede boots are provided for country wear.

Crepe Shoes in Different Patterns.

By ordering shoes to match the house frock that very important item of the wardrobe is well served, and an essentially dainty addition to it provided. Crêpe shoes, with or without patterned devices of flowers, are very becoming in shades of lemon, old rose and almond green.

It is in the late afternoon and evening dress, that garment termed generically tea-gown, that women are interested now, and even more so in the frock that serves its purpose during the entire afternoon, and, if necessary, with the extra touch of an added flower or ornament still later. For the full dress toilette what can we have? Those that I have seen have given me the surprise that an old friend suddenly and unexpectedly returned imparts. One was a really pretty dress, all white satin, with mother-of-pearl flecked tulle about the corsage and hips, and a pearl chataigne hung from the waist, with trails of little roses as pendants, and on the skirt a single small red squirrel skin, placed apparently haphazard in its very improbable position. A chaplet of laurel leaves, all mother-of-pearl, was the accompaniment of the dress.



NOT more beautiful than the poetry of lines in this costume is the richness of coloring effected by the champagne broadcloth and the seal.



ONE seldom finds so broad a belt as the one which is twined about this bottle green suit. Nor would many women have sufficient daring to wear a collar of severity equal to this low, self-colored upstanding one.

porcelain beads. This tea-jacket might be worn over several different skirts. One might be made of white pleated nun's veiling, for example, or there might be a gathered skirt in Wedgwood blue charmeuse, crêpe de Chine, violet ninon or taffeta. The costume I have just suggested would be quite elaborate enough for a dinner at the house of intimate friends.

I have seen similar models composed of printed taffeta or satin, with a dark background and conventional designs in white. These silks gave foudlard effects, and they were practical and useful as well as dainty.

Russian Blouses Supremely Popular.

The Russian blouse outline has captured the imagination of the Parisiennes. One finds it expressed in velvet and fur for outdoor wear, and in velveteen, satin, taffeta and crêpe de Chine for home costumes. There are few garments more useful than the genuine Russian blouse, which has a moderately long basque and which is made of very supple materials. A clever girl can make a blouse of this order look like a veritable creation by the cunning manner in which it is adjusted and by the addition of a beautiful hand-made belt enriched with intricate bead and silk embroideries.

If I were asked to describe the spirit of the present hour I should employ the words "throw on." It is especially a "throw-on" season.

All the new tea-jackets, blouses and outdoor garments are so loose and careless in outline that they can be thrown on without the least difficulty. We have not time for intricate fashions. What we need, and demand, is something that can be easily worn and which will look original and picturesque.

Faithfully Copies Moujik Costume.

The Russian blouse, in each of its many impersonations, meets these requirements. It is an ideal garment. The model beloved of the Parisiennes is a faithful copy of the genuine moujik blouse, a loose, apparently shapeless, garment, which, if made of supple materials, can be adapted to any figure and made to fall into many different folds.

For outdoor wear these moujik blouses are made very long and expressed in velvet, Indian cashmere, soft serge, heavy satin, etc. For indoor wear they are shorter and are composed of Liberty satin, supple taffeta, a heavy make of crêpe de Chine and many other stuffs.

The great point is that the blouse must be extremely supple in ma-